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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" If you put questions about constables, naturally they come to listen to them." (Laughter.)

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is there a proper shelter for the constables now and if not, will the Government consider the desirability of providing them with a suitable shelter? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The requirements of this Chamber will be considered after partition with reference to the conditions prevailing then."

Supply of electricity to New Mahe.

* 181 *Q.*—SRI K. M. SEETHI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state what steps are being taken to extend the supply of electricity to New Mahe?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Supply of electricity to New Mahe is included in a major ten-year scheme which is under consideration."

SRI K. M. SEETHI :—" May I know whether we can have some idea about the period that will be necessary for introducing it in view of the fact that electricity is available within three miles of New Mahe and in view of the strategic importance of that place as it is situated on the border of French Mahe? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" New Mahe lies in Cannanore–Badagara 33 K.V. Section and a 33 K.V./400 V distribution transformer is proposed to be installed there. 40 H.P. industrial, 80 flat rate services, 150 Nos. domestic services and 100 Nos. street lights are anticipated initially in this area. The major scheme referred to above has been ordered to be placed before the Standing Finance Committee and the Cabinet for approval."

Dearness allowances to public servants.

* 182 *Q.*—SRI G. RAMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state— 9-20 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Government follow the cost of living index to increase or decrease the dearness allowances to the public servants of the State; and

(*b*) if so, what is the cost of living index now and what it was in the corresponding period of last year?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The Government have been following the cost of living index to increase the rates of dearness allowance to the public servants of the State to the extent their financial position permitted. The question of reducing the rates of dearness allowance has not arisen so far, as the cost of living index is still high.

"(*b*) The cost of living index for Madras City for January 1953 is 327, while it was 338 in the corresponding period of last year (1952)."

Sri G. Rama Rao:—" ఈ cost of living index ప్రతి సంవత్సరము, 1949-50, 50-51 నుంచి కూడ క్రమంగా పెరుగుతూ వస్తూయున్నది. Rural areas లో కూడ బాగనే పెరుగుతూయున్నది. తరువాత Economic Adviser to the Government of Madras ఇచ్చిన statistics ప్రకారంకూడా, 1949-50 కున్నా 1950-51 కున్నా 20 పాయింట్లు ఎక్కువ పెరిగింది.

మద్రాసు నగరం.

1949-50	...	...	322.8
1950-51	...	...	329.2

రూరలు యేరియాలో.

1949-50	...	...	478
1950-51	...	...	507

గా పెరిగింది. దీని ప్రకారము dearness allowance ను పెంచినట్లైన ప్రభుత్వమునకు ఎంత ఖర్చు అవుతుందో చెప్పగలరా?"

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam:—"They may be put in the form of separate questions, Sir."

Sri P. B. K. Rajachidambaram:—"Sir, will the Government consider the advisability of adopting the policy recently adopted by the Government of India, namely, merging 50 per cent of the dearness allowance with pay and thus give the Government servants some relief?"

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam:—"I am sorry, Sir, we do not have the same resources as the Central Government have got."

Sri P. Ramamurthi:—What was the cost of living index figure when the dearness allowance was fixed at the present rate and by how much has it risen since then?"

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam:—"From the figures available here, the last revision was made on 1st January 1948 when the cost of living index was 306. Now it is 327."

Sri M. Kalyanasundaram:—"Sir, will the Government consider the question of introducing a slab system of dearness allowance to provide for the automatic increase in the dearness allowance with the increase in the cost of living?"

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam:—"I am sorry, Sir, the resources available with this Government will not permit us to do that."

The Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari:—"If the hon. Member will suggest a slab system of taxation, we may do that." (Laughter.)

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SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, in view of the fact that during the last five years, that is, from 1948 when the dearness allowance was fixed, the cost of living index figures have increased tremendously—they might probably have come down a little bit during the last year or so—and therefore the real wage that the Government servants receive now is far less than what it was when the cost of living was normal, will the Government at least consider the question of giving a bonus to the Government servants to off-set the enhanced expenditure they are put to now? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am not at all surprised at the suggestion made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition because he wants the Government servants also to be formed into labour unions and to be under his control." (Laughter.)

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Sir, from the reply of the Hon. Minister, it is seen that the present rate of dearness allowance was fixed long ago when the index figure was 306. Now according to the Hon. Minister himself the figure has gone up and it is 327. Will the Government do something at least to neutralize this increase by granting more allowance? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is quite unnecessary, Sir. It is only when the increase is more than 25 points the question of increasing the allowance could be considered. The index figure is only 327 now. If it goes up to 331 it will have to be considered. But, as it is, even if the cost of living index figure goes beyond 331, I do not think it will be possible for the Government to consider the question."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, apart from the question of the Hon. Chief Minister being surprised or not surprised, the question is whether the Government will consider the question of neutralizing the rise in the cost of living index figures by giving a bonus to the Government servants."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, no question of bonus can come in, in the case of Government servants. Payment of bonus is a dangerous practice. Already it has gone too far. The bonus really serves only political parties and not the persons concerned." (Laughter.)

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, I am not here asking for profit-sharing bonus because we know we are not dealing with a profit-sharing industry. The suggestion is, will the Government consider the question of granting an ex-gratia lump-sum payment to the Government servants so that it might be of some relief to those Government servants who might have incurred debts during the last five years due to increase in the cost of living? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, after this instructive discussion, when the next budget comes, we will consider the resources of the Government and decide the thing."

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SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In view of the fact that the cost of living index varies for different places in the Madras State itself and in view of the fact that the cost of living index in Kozhikode is 440 when it is only 327 for Madras, will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be kind enough to consider the advisability of increasing the dearness allowance given to Government servants in Malabar, especially at Kozhikode? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, local factory payments may be adjusted like that, but it is impossible that the Government Budgets can be altered in that way from place to place."

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASWAMI :—" Sir, in view of the very heavy expenditure incurred by Government by way of establishment and other charges, have the Government fixed any work-loads for these categories of staff? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, there is a kind of work-load also. If the hon. Member will look into the Secretariat practice, he will find it."

Shifting of the Subdivisional Magistrate's Court, Kavali.

* 183 *Q.*—SRI K. SHANMUGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether any representation was recently received from the pleaders of Kandukur for the shifting of the Subdivisional Magistrate's Court, Kavali, to Kandukur and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" No such representation has been received."

SRI K. SHANMUGAM :—" Sir, as it is difficult for the people of Kandukur to go to Kavali to attend the court, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to instruct the Kavali Magistrate to go to Kandukur now and then to enquire into cases? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" That is a separate matter, Sir."

Memorandum regarding transport employees from the Malabar Motor Employee's Union, Cannanore.

* 184 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any memorandum regarding the demands of the transport employees from the Malabar Motor Employees' Union, Cannanore, on 4th July 1952; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The memorandum was forwarded to the Commissioner of Labour for enquiry and report. He has now reported that the Labour Officer, Kozhikode, held conciliation proceedings